

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **SOUTHPORT MAYOR TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR'S LIAISON IN SOUTHEAST**

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Southport Mayor Norman Holden will serve as a liaison representing Sampson, Duplin, Onslow, Pender, Brunswick, Harnett, Cumberland, Robeson, Bladen, New Hanover and Columbus counties for the Governor's Office.

Holden will provide a link between the department, the Governor's Office, the Board of Transportation, citizens and various government and professional groups on a wide variety of issues including economic development and transportation projects affecting highways, secondary roads, bridges, public transportation, ferries.

"Norman's background in public service combined with his 30 years experience with the state in municipal government make him a valuable asset to the state," said Easley. "He will be a strong voice for citizens in Eastern North Carolina. He knows these people and has served in most of their counties throughout his career."

Holden will work with municipalities in the transportation planning process and will work to resolve issues with citizens on the local level. He will work closely with planning agencies such as Rural Planning Organizations to seek public involvement on transportation plans and related issues. He also will represent NCDOT at public hearings, meetings, conferences and other public events.

"Norman will serve a much needed role ensuring that all citizens are involved in the decisions which affect them," said State Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet. "He also will help the department in our efforts to make Gov. Easley's vision of *One North Carolina* a reality."

A native of Southport, Holden has served as mayor for the last 12 years. He will remain as mayor while he is under contract with the department. His municipal government experience includes serving 16 years on the Southport City Council. Holden retired in 1998 from the Department of Correction after 33 years of service in the parole and probation department where he served as a supervisor in New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

Holden and his wife Janice have a son, Dean, daughter-in-law, Joanna, and two grandchildren, Brooke and Bryant.

This is a new use of existing resources. Easley is moving members of his staff out of Raleigh and into areas across the state to give all people access to his administration.

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